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## BARNES & THORNBURG

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June 13, 2003

#### By Hand Delivery

Honorable Vernon A. Williams Secretary Surface Transportation Board 1925 K Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Re: Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 163X) Union Pacific Railroad Company-Abandonment Exemption--in Lamar and Fannin Counties, TX

Dear Secretary Williams:

Enclosed for filing are an original and 10 copies of the "Petition to Toll Period for Submitting Offer of Financial Assistance."

Two copies of the above-mentioned document are enclosed which we request be date-stamped and returned to the undersigned. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Very truly yours,

Richard H. Streeter

RHS Enclosure

cc: Keith O'Brien, Esq.

ENTERED Proceedings

JIIN 1 2 2003

Public Record

DCDS01 RHS 69127v1

#### Before the Surface Transportation Board Washington, D.C. 20423

Office of Proceedings

Public Record Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 163X)
Union Pacific Railroad Company--Abandonment Exemption--in Lamar and Fannin Counties,

Petition to Toll Period for Submitting Offer of Financial Assistance

Comes Now Fannin Rural Rail Transportation District ("FRRTD") and files its

Petition seeking to toll the period for submitting an officer of financial assistance

("OFA") so as to permit FRRTD to enter into negotiations with the Union Pacific

Railroad Company ("UP") to acquire the line. FRRTD is a political subdivision of the

State of Texas charged with the responsibility for preserving rail transportation. As

reflected by the attached letter of May 23, 2003, which was duly and timely filed with

the Board on May 27, 2003 (following an attempt made on May 23 during the

Board's normal business hours)<sup>1</sup>, FRRTD formally notified the Board and UP that it

intends to file an OFA. That letter also notified UP that FRRTD requires information

concerning the NLV of the line, as well as other materials, in order that it may present its

OFA. This was but the latest attempt to alert UP of FRRTD's interest in acquiring the

line that is the subject of the abandonment proceeding.

By its Response filed with the Board on or about June 11, 2003, UP has provided information concerning the line and its alleged net liquidation value ("NLV"). FRRTD is

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> As the Board's records will reflect, the Board closed early on May 23, 2003, which was the Friday before Memorial day. On that date, a messenger from the firm of Barnes & Thornburg attempted to file the OFA prior to the normal closing time, but was prevented from doing so by the early closing.

currently in the process of exploring the values assigned to UP and intends to make an offer based on its own information with regard to the NLV.

In its response, UP erroneously claims that FRRTD's Notice of Intent was not filed with the Board until June 6, 2003. A review of the materials attached to UP's submission proves conclusively that UP has confused the Texas Department of Transportation ("TexDOT") with FRRTD. As stated in Exhibit B to UP's Response (emphasis added), "the **Texas Department of Transportation** hereby informs you of its intent to enter into Rail-banking, Public Use Condition negotiations." Although UP has failed to note the distinction, FRRTD and TexDOT are distinct legal entities. Because Mr. Shumate is on vacation (as confirmed by the message on his voice mail) and will not return until June 19, 2003, it has been impossible to correct the mistaken impression under which he appears to be laboring.

Mr. Shumate has requested that FRRTD "be required to make its offer of financial assistance" by June 18, 2003. Because Mr. Shumate will not be available until June 19, FRRTD respectfully requests the Board to toll the OFA deadline to allow time for evaluation of the requested information for purposes of an appropriate OFA and negotiations. This will also permit TexDOT and UP to negotiate a public use condition after Mr. Shumate's vacation.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard H. Streeter

Counsel to Fannin Rural Rail Transportation District and the Texas Department of

Transportation

Dated: June 13, 2003

#### Certificate of Service

I, Richard H. Streeter, do hereby certify that a true copy of the foregoing document was served by first-class mail, postage prepaid, this 13<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2003, on

Mack H. Shumate, Jr. 101 North Wacker Drive Room 1920 Chicago, IL 60606

the following:

Gary A. Laakso, Esq. 5300 Broken Sound Boulevard N.W. Second Floor Boca Raton, FL 33487

Louis E. Gitomer Ball Janik LLP 1455 F Street, N.W., Suite 225 Washington, D.C. 20005

Richard H. Streeter

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750 17th Street, N.W. Suite 900 Washington, D.C. 20006 U.S.A. (202) 289-1313 (202) 289-1330 - Fax

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May 23, 2003

Mack H. Shumate, Jr., Esq. Senior General Attorney 101 North Wacker Drive Room 1920 Chicago, IL 60606

RE: <u>Union Pacific Railroad Company--Abandonment Exemption--in Lamar</u> and Fannin Counties, TX

Dear Mr. Shumate:

This letter is written on behalf of the Fannin Rural Rail Transportation District ("FRRTD"). FRRTD intends to file an offer of financial assistance ("OFA") to purchase the 33.5-mile portion of the Bonham Subdivision between milepost 94.0, near Paris, and milepost 127.5, east of Bonham, in Lamar and Fannin Counties, TX. FRRTD is a political subdivision of the State of Texas charged with the responsibility for preserving rail transportation services.

In accordance with the requirements set forth in 49 C.F.R. § 1152.27(a), FRRTD hereby requests Union Pacific Railroad Company ("UP") to provide promptly the following information:

- 1. UP's estimate of the minimum purchase price required to keep the line in operation. 49 C.F.R. § 1152.27(a)(1)(i). It is assumed that UP will agree that the line has no going concern value ("GCV"). Therefore, information concerning the net liquidation value ("NLV") would be required. Any information concerning the physical condition of the line and the estimated cost of rehabilitating the line to Class I status that is in UP's possession that was not included in the Notice of Exemption is also requested.
- 2. Pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 1152.27(a)(3), please provide UP's estimate of the NLV of the line with supporting data reflecting available real estate appraisals, assessments of the quality and quantity of track materials on the line, and removal cost estimates (including the cost of transporting removed materials to point of sale or point of storage for relay use).
- 3. Documentation to show the extent to which RVI has marketable fee title to the land in the rail line right-of-way as contrasted to easements or other interests that would revert to others if the line were not being used for railroad purposes. Such documentation of title is deemed necessary to determine whether and to what extent rail line real estate should be considered for net liquidation value purposes under 49 C.F.R. § 1152.27(a)(3).

Indianapolis

Mack H. Shumate, Jr., Esq. May 23, 2003 Page 2

4. Valuation maps for the rail line including any deed indices that accompany the maps. Such maps are essential to verification of the quantity of land included in the rail line. As such the information requested is deemed included within the meaning of 49 C.F.R. § 1152.27(a)(3).

We look forward to receiving your prompt response.

Very truly yours,

Richard H. Streeter

RHS:rs

cc: Mr. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary Surface Transportation Board

All parties of record

#### Certificate of Service

I, Richard H. Streeter, do hereby certify that a true copy of the foregoing

document was served by first-class mail, postage prepaid, this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of May, 2003, on

the following:

Mack H. Shumate, Jr. (via fax and U.S. mail) 101 North Wacker Drive Room 1920 Chicago, IL 60606

Gary A. Laakso, Esq. 5300 Broken Sound Boulevard N.W. Second Floor Boca Raton, FL 33487

Louis E. Gitomer Ball Janik LLP 1455 F Street, N.W., Suite 225 Washington, D.C. 20005

Richard H. Streeter

#### Confirmation Report - Memory Send

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TELECOPY NO.

#### FAX COVER SHEET

TO:

NAME David M. Konschnik COMPANY NAME Office of Proceedings, Surface 565-9002 Transportation Board

FROM: Richard H. Streeter

DIRECT DIAL: 408-6933

E-MAIL:

May 23, 2003 DATE:

TIME SENDING:

NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET):

If you have difficulty receiving this Fax, please call Barnes & Thomburg at and ask for

David, We attempted to file the attached documents at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, May 23, 2003. However, the STB had closed early for the Memorial Day weekend. I trust that the Board will accept the petition as timely filed, even though I cannot get it back to you until Tuesday morning. The Board issued the exemption on the 19th. Assuming that the 5-day period includes only business days, I believe that the petition to toll would not be due until Tuesday in any event. However, out of an abundance of caution, I tried to get it to you this afternoon. Thanks, Richard.

Response once received: Please deliver immediately.

CLIENT# 90008 MATTER# 30

x Original to follow by mail Original will not follow by mail